LESSON :2

GRAMMAR: TENSE

What is Tense?

I *write* this letter to thank you. (A Verb that refers to present time is said to be **Present Tense**)

I *wrote* the letter in his presence. (A Verb that refers to past time is said to be **Past Tense**)

I *shall write* the letter tomorrow. (A Verb that refers to future time is said to be **Future Tense**)

The Tense of the Verb shows the time of action or event

Present Tense

	Singular number	Plural Number
1st Person	I love	We love
2nd Person	You love	You love
3rd Person	He/She/It loves	They love

Past Tense

	Singular number	Plural Number
1st Person	I loved	We loved
2nd Person	You loved	You loved
3rd Person	He/She/It loved	They loved

Future Tense

	Singular number	Plural Number
1st Person	I Shall/Will love	We shall/Will love
2nd Person	You will love	You will love
3rd Person	He/She/It will love	They will love

I love	Simple Present	Present time, present tense
I am loving	Present Continuous	Action is still going on at the time of speaking
I have loved	Present Perfect	Action is complete at the time of speaking
I have been loving	Present perfect continuous	Action is going on ,not complete at the present moment

I loved	Simple Past	Past time, past tense
I was loving	Past Continuous	Action going on at some time in past
I had loved	Past Perfect	Action was complete at the time of speaking
I had been loving	Past perfect continuous	Action began before a certain point in the past and continued until that time.
I shall/will love	Simple future	Future time, future tense.
I shall/will be loving	Future Continuous	Action will be going on at a time in future.
I shall /will have loved	Future Perfect	Action that will be completed by a certain future time.
I shall have been loving	Future perfect continuous	Action will be in progress over a period of time that will end in future. This tense is not very common.

So we may now define Tense as a form of Verb which shows the ***time*** and the ***state*** of an action or event

Lets try now…….

Simple present tense	**Present continuous tense**
I speak	I am speaking
You speak	You are speaking
He speaks	He is speaking
We speak	We are speaking
They speak	They are speaking
Present Perfect Tense	**Present Perfect continuous tense**
I have spoken	I have been speaking
You have spoken	You have been speaking
He has spoken	He has been speaking
We have spoken	We have been speaking
They have spoken	They have been speaking
Simple Past Tense	**Past Continuous Tense**
I spoke	I was speaking
You spoke	You were speaking
He spoke	He was speaking
We spoke	We were speaking
They spoke	They were speaking
Past Perfect Tense	**Past Perfect Continuous Tense**
I had spoken	I had been speaking
You had spoken	You had been speaking
He had spoken	He had been speaking
We had spoken	We had been speaking
They had spoken	They had been speaking
Simple Future Tense	**Future Continuous Tense**

I shall/will speak	I shall/will be speaking
You will speak	You will be speaking
He will speak	He will be speaking
We shall/will speak	We shall/will be speaking
They will speak	They will be speaking
Future Perfect Tense	**Future Perfect Continuous Tense**
I shall/will have spoken	I shall/will have been speaking
You will have spoken	You will have been speaking
He will have spoken	He will have been speaking
We shall/will have spoken	We shall/will have been speaking
They will have spoken	They will have been speaking

Rule: In both writing and speaking, usually maintain the same tense within a sentence, paragraph or thought.

 She walked into the room and *sat* down

 She walked into the room and *sits* down

Choose the correct verb form in the bracket

1.The earth _____ round the sun. (Move, moves, moved)

2. My friends _____the Prime minister yesterday. (saw, have seen, see)

3. I _____ him only one letter up to now. (sent, have sent, send).

4. She ____ worried about something. (looks, looking, is looking)

5. It started to rain while we _____tennis. (are playing, were playing, had played)

6. He _____fast when the accident happened. (is driving, was driving, drove)

7. He ____ asleep while he was driving (falls, fell, has fallen)

8. I am sure I _____ him at the party last night. (saw, have seen, had seen)

9.He _____ a mill in this town. (have, has, is having)

10.He_____here for the last 5 years. (worked, is working, has been working)

11. The plane _____at 3.30pm. (arrives, will arrive)

12. I will phone you when he _____back. (come, will come)

13. when I get home, my dog _____at the gate waiting for me. (sits, will be sitting)

14.I _____her this evening. (visit, am visiting)

15. Look at those black clouds. It_____. (will rain, is going to rain.)

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Rules

Simple present tense is used

-to express a habitual action:

He *drinks* tea every morning

I *get up* every day at 5o'clock

-to express general truths:

The sun *rises* in east.

Honey *is* sweet.

-In exclamatory sentences beginning with here & there:

Here *comes* the bus!

There she *goes*!

-To express a future event that is a part of fixed timetable or program.

The *match* starts at 9am

The train *leaves* at 10pm

Present continuous tense

-for an action going on at the time of speaking

She is *singing*.

The boys are *playing* hockey.

-for an action that has already been arranged to take place in near future

I am *going* to the cinema tonight.

My uncle is *arriving* tomorrow

The following verbs on account of their meaning are not normally used in continuous form

1.verbs of perception: e.g. see, hear, smell, notice, recognizing

2.verbs of appearing e.g. appearing, look, seem

3.verbs of emotion e.g. want, wish, desire, feel, like, love, hate, hope, refuse, prefer

4. verbs of thinking e.g. think, suppose, believe, agree, consider, trust, remember, forget, know, understand, imagine, mean, mind

5. have(=possess), own, possess, belong to, contain, consist of

Wrong: These grapes are tasting sour.

I am thinking you are wrong.

She is seeming sad.

He is having a cellphone.

Right: these grapes taste sour.

I think you are wrong.

She seems sad.

He has a cellphone.

Present perfect tense

-to indicate completed activities in the immediate past (with just)

He has just *gone* out.

It has just *struck* ten.

-to express past actions whose time is not given and not definite

Mr. Hari has *been* to Japan.

I have never *known* him to be angry.

-to denote an action in the at some time in the past and continuing up to the present moment (often used with *since* or *for* phrases)

I have *known* him for a long time.

He *has been* ill since last week.

We have *lived* here for ten years.

Present perfect continuous tense

-Used for an action which began sometime in the past and is still continuing:

They *have been playing* since 4pm.

Future continuous tense

I *will be staying* here till Sunday.

He *will be meeting* us next week.

Future perfect tense

I *shall have written* my exercise by then.

He *will have left* before you go to see him.

Future perfect continuous tense

I'll *have been teaching* for twenty years next July.